

St. Petersburg, Russia

July 24, 2009

This is an information message for all American citizens. If you need emergency assistance, please contact us by e-mail at StPetersburgACS@state.gov, by fax at 7-812-331-2646 or phone us at 7- 812- 331-2600.

H1N1 INFLUENZA UPDATE

This Warden Message alerts U.S. citizens to the latest information regarding human cases of 2009-H1N1 Influenza, sometimes referred to as swine flu or novel H1N1. The US Embassy in Moscow has reported two cases of H1N1 among its Embassy employees in addition to the twelve cases that the Russian government has officially confirmed among its citizens as of July 23.

Russian health authorities are screening high-risk groups, particularly incoming travelers. Those who show signs of possible H1N1 infection are subject to further examination. Some travelers have been held in short-term quarantine until their infection status has been determined. American citizens should be aware that the Consulate cannot demand their immediate release if they have been detained or quarantined in accordance with local public health and legal authorities.

Any questions or concerns about influenza or other illnesses should be directed to a medical professional. Although the Consulate cannot provide medical advice or provide medical services to the public, a list of hospitals and doctors can be found on our website at <http://stpetersburg.usconsulate.gov/root/pdfs/folder-am/medical-list-2009.pdf>. Please note that the Consulate is NOT advising Americans in Russia to depart. At this time, the Consulate advises that Americans review the guidance provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, and make their own decisions about whether to remain in Russia.

For more information on U.S. Government policy during a pandemic, and for travel safety information, please see the State Department's "Pandemic/Avian Influenza" and "Remain in Country" fact sheets on www.travel.state.gov. Further information about 2009-H1N1 Influenza, including steps you can take to stay healthy, can be found at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>, the U.S. Government pandemic influenza website at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>, and the World Health Organization website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>.

U.S. citizens may also call the Office of Overseas Citizens Services in the United States for the latest travel information. The Office of Overseas Citizens Services can be reached from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, Monday through Friday, by calling 1-888-407-4747 from within the U.S. and Canada, or by calling (202) 501-4444 from other countries.

Americans living or traveling in Russia are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within Russia. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

The U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg is located at 15 Furshtatskaya Street, Metro Chernyshevskaya, telephone (812) 331-2600. The American Citizen Services e-mail address is StPetersburgACS@state.gov and fax number is (812) 331-2646.

